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THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 144  
Author: Committee on Budget  
Amended: 9/9/25 in Senate  
Vote: 21- Urgency

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ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 53-17, 3/20/25 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Health

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill is an omnibus health trailer bill, and contains changes to implement the 2025-26 budget.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill makes technical and clarifying statutory revisions affecting health programs necessary to implement the Budget Act of 2025. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Implements exemptions and other provisions regarding licensing of health professionals and facilities during the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the following:
  - a. Provides licensure exemptions to certain medical personnel, on a temporary basis, to ensure adequate medical coverage for the Games, to account for medical needs of Olympic teams from visiting nations, as well as overall requirements of the Olympic Games.
  - b. From May 15 to September 15, 2028, clinics approved by the Organizing Committee may operate without standard state licensure if run by California-licensed practitioners or affiliated health facilities.
  - c. Allows emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, and other health care practitioners licensed in other states or countries to practice in California for activities related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, under oversight from the California Department of Public Health,

Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Emergency Medical Service Authority.

- 2) Revises statewide requirements and guidance related to the provision of immunizations and the coverage and delivery of various preventive health care services, including the following:
  - a. Establishes baseline recommendations for preventive services, items, and immunizations recommended, as of January 1, 2025, by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
  - b. Authorizes the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to modify or supplement the baseline recommendations, taking into consideration guidance and recommendations from additional medical and scientific organizations, including, but not limited to, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).
  - c. Authorizes CDPH to incorporate subsequent evidence based recommendations from USPSTF, ACIP, or HRSA, to the extent the department determines them to promote public health.
  - d. Requires CDPH to publish the baseline recommendations, including any modification or supplement, and that any updates, modifications, or supplements are deemed effective on the date of publication.
  - e. Replaces references to USPSTF, ACIP, or HRSA for coverage preventive services and items, and for the administration of vaccines by various health professionals and other personnel and entities, with references to these federal recommendations as they existed on January 1, 2025, as modified or supplemented by CDPH pursuant to its authority under the baseline recommendations.
  - f. Until January 1, 2030, extends protection of liability for any injury caused by an act or omission in prescribing, dispensing, ordering, furnishing, or in the administration of vaccines or other immunizing agents if required by state law or administered in accordance with guidance from CDPH

according to its baseline recommendations, unless the act or omission constitutes willful misconduct or gross negligence.

- 3) Continues to require a qualified health plan in the Covered California health benefit exchange to provide coverage for state-mandated gender affirming care benefits.
- 4) Authorizes the Health Care Affordability Reserve Fund to support payments by Covered California to health plans to defray the cost of offering state-mandated gender affirming care benefits in the exchange.
- 5) Establishes the Abortion Access Fund, continuously appropriated to, and administered by, the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), to provide funding for abortion services through grants to provide abortion access.
- 6) Requires the director of the Covered California health benefit exchange to order the transfer of up to 75 percent of the funds from each qualified health plan's segregated account for abortions with a positive balance as of July 1, 2025, and up to 50 percent thereafter, to the Abortion Access Fund.
- 7) Establishes an updated schedule of fees to be paid to CDPH for the licensing and certification of laboratory personnel.
- 8) Establishes an updated schedule of fees to be paid to CDPH for the licensing and certification of genetic counselors.
- 9) Streamlines and eliminates obsolete reporting requirements to the Legislature by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
- 10) Revises requirements for the third party administrator for administration of the Statewide Behavioral Health Schoolsite Fee Schedule to include reducing administrative burdens of collecting health plan enrollment data on local educational agencies (LEAs), and ensuring timely payment of claims.
- 11) Aligns implementation dates for payment of premiums in the Medi-Cal program by individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status to July 1, 2027.

- 12) Exempts immigrant foster youth and former foster youth from provisions related to the freeze on Medi-Cal enrollment, payment of premiums, and other provisions adopted in the 2025 Budget Act.
- 13) Extends the expenditure, encumbrance and liquidation period for expenditure of funding for a medical interpreters pilot project until June 30, 2026.
- 14) Authorizes state operations funding for support of backfilled HIV/AIDS prevention programs with AIDS Drug Assistance Program Rebate Funds.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

Establishes the Abortion Access Fund, continuously appropriated to, and administered by, the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), to provide funding for abortion services through grants to provide abortion access.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 53-17, 3/20/25

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Jackson, Kalra, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

**NOES:** Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

**NO VOTE RECORDED:** Ahrens, Alvarez, Bauer-Kahan, Calderon, Essayli, Hoover, Irwin, Krell, Papan, Wallis

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9/12/25 9:11:04

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